

**PHEONIX** - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell visited the main warehouse of St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance today to help raise awareness of the demand that food banks and other charitable organizations are facing following the holiday season.

"Hunger does not take a holiday," Mitchell said. "The demand for help has been extremely high as people continue to struggle economically. As a result, food surpluses that usually build up over the holidays have had to be distributed."



Mitchell arrived at St. Mary's with donated food collected by his staff from its own office food drive over the holidays. He also toured the food bank before helping to build emergency food boxes.

During this difficult economy, Mitchell has led by example. Earlier this year, Mitchell led a successful effort to block an automatic pay raise for members of Congress. In previous years, when his efforts to block previous pay raises for members of Congress were unsuccessful, and Mitchell received raises over his objection, he donated his pay raises to a number of Arizona charities, including the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the world's first food bank, is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization that alleviates hunger by efficiently gathering and distributing food to 534 agencies that serve the hungry. Serving 13 of Arizona's 15 counties, the organization is a member of Feeding America, the national network of food banks, and is committed to volunteerism,

## **Mitchell Volunteers at St. Mary's Food Bank to Raise Awareness Following the Holidays**

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building community relationships, and improving the quality of life for Arizonans in need. Last year, the Food Bank distributed more than 67 million pounds of food to families and individuals, provided enough food for 300,000 meals every day, and garnered more than 370,000 volunteer service hours. Web site: [www.FirstFoodBank.org](http://www.FirstFoodBank.org) Phone: 602-242-FOOD.